

App. No. 09/871,608
Amdt. Dated March 23, 2005
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of March 4, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A tension member, comprising a plurality of fiber filaments gathered into a plurality of strands in which the filaments run close together, around which strands there is provided a protective sheath, wherein between at least some of the strands and the protective sheath there are provided spacing elements, which spacing elements define an inner continuous cavity adapted to receive a plurality of strands, said cavity having a cross section corresponding to, at least, approximately the total cross section of all the strands, and that each strand is coated on the exterior thereof with sheath of a material having a low friction coefficient, permitting the strands to move longitudinally in relation to one another and independently of each other.

12. (previously presented) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the sheath consists of polyethylene or polyurethane.

13. (previously presented) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements are provided with recesses, which recesses are adapted to the cross-sectional form of the adjacent strands.

14. (previously presented) The tension member according to claim 13, wherein the spacing elements are equipped with complementary locking elements or their adjoining surfaces.

15. (previously presented) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the spacing elements comprises a material having buoyancy in water.

16. (previously presented) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of PVC.

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17. (previously presented) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the spacing elements consist of a material having buoyancy in water.

18. (previously presented) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the filaments are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the stands are to be coiled.

19. (previously presented) The tension member according to claim 11, wherein the strands are wound at a maximum pitch corresponding to the circumference of a drum onto which the tension member is to be coiled.